



Mississippi Summer

In The California Redwoods



"FREEDOM RIDERS" NEEDED TO SAVE THE FOREST

It's going to be a long hard summer in the Redwood region of Northern California. The public is outraged over the timber companies' policy of exterminating the redwoods for short-term profit, and the corporados know they're not going to get away with this for much longer. Two voter initiatives restricting timber cutting will be on the California ballot next fall, and, whether in the form of voter initiatives or state and federal legislation, it seems inevitable that some regulations will soon be passed.

The timber companies have reacted to this by racing to cut every tree they can as fast as they can before any laws can be enacted to stop them. 95% of the redwood ecosystem has already been cut, and much of it has been destroyed so that it is no longer even forest land. This summer everything from 1000-year old giants, 12 feet in diameter, to baby redwood trees that are chipped for the pulp mills will be falling at breakneck speed. If we want to have anything left to save, we have to slow the timber companies down now. And it doesn't seem like we, in these rural, timber-dependent areas, can do it by ourselves.

Back in the early '60's, the Civil Rights movement found themselves in a similar situation in Mississippi, unable to break the stranglehold of the powers-that-be in their communities, but backed by substantial public support both locally and nationally. What they did was to put out a nationwide call for people to come ride the buses to Mississippi and help challenge the rule of racism.

We need to do the same thing now to save the forest. We are putting out a call for Freedom Riders for the Forest to come to Northern California this summer and defend the redwoods with non-violent protest. We hope to maintain permanent encampments and waves of actions all summer long. The situation here is critical and volatile, and we need people who are committed to non-violence. Locally we will provide housing, campsites, guides and support to help plan and carry out the actions, and non-violence training for demonstrators. Affinity groups, organizations and individuals are all welcome and needed. The redwoods are almost gone. Help us make a last stand for the last stands.

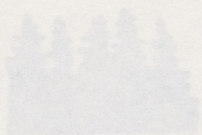
For more information please contact us at the address below, or call Judi (707-485-0478), Betty (707-468-1660), Pam (707-523-1229) or Darryl (707-247-3320).



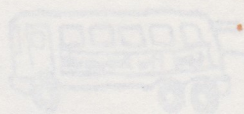
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106 West Standley, Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 485-0478



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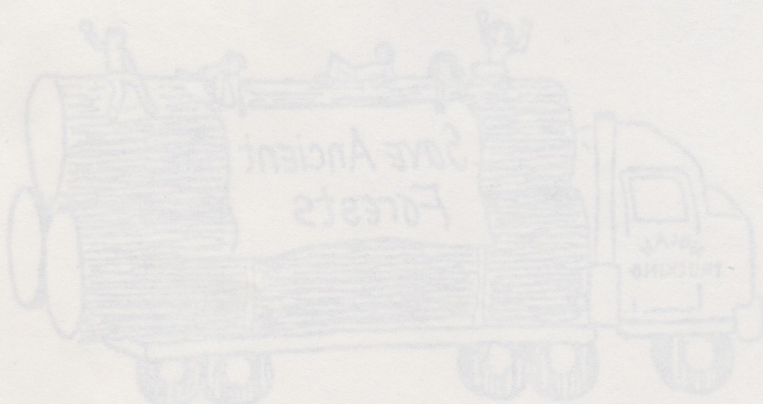
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